

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reexamination and reconsideration of this Application, withdrawal of the rejections, and formal notification of the allowability of all claims as now presented are earnestly solicited in light of the remarks which follow. Claims 6-12 are pending.

Objections to the Specification

The Examiner has objected to the length of the Abstract. In response, Applicants submit herewith a shortened Abstract. In addition, Applicants have corrected the minor informalities in the specification noted by the Examiner. In light of the foregoing, Applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of these objections.


Obviousness-Type Double Patenting Rejections

Claims 6 and 11-12 stand rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over Claims 1-4 of U.S. Patent No. 5,980,846 in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,009,873 and DE 3,721,421. Additionally, Claims 7-10 stand rejected under obviousness-type double patenting over the same three references set forth above and further in view of JP 63-123801 and JP 01-254226. In response, Applicants submit herewith a Terminal Disclaimer with respect to U.S. Patent No. 5,980,846. In light of the submittal of this Terminal Disclaimer, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of all obviousness-type double patenting rejections based on the '846 patent.

It is believed that all pending claims are now in condition for immediate allowance. It is requested that the Examiner telephone the undersigned should the Examiner have any comments or suggestions in order to expedite examination of this case.

It is not believed that extensions of time or fees for net addition of claims are required, beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to allow consideration of this paper, such extensions are hereby petitioned under 37 CFR § 1.136(a), and any fee required therefore (including fees for net addition of claims) is hereby authorized to be charged to Deposit Account No. 16-0605.

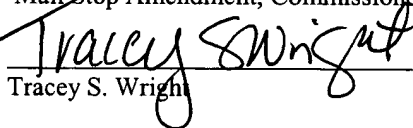
Respectfully submitted,


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